

the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, it is my strong belief that the pre-eminent reason a majority of Northern Michigan's citizens selected me to be their representative in Washington was to do everything possible to rein in out-of-control Federal spending. My focus has been to support such efforts while working to ensure that policies coming out of the Nation's Capital—tax, monetary, and regulatory—serve to encourage private enterprise so Northern Michigan has the chance to experience economic growth.

My first 44 days in office have taught me a great deal about the budget process and the "spending ways of Washington." Each day we have been in session I have typically had 5–10 meetings with organizations, companies and Washington reps all seeking to keep their programs free of any spending cuts. No one in Washington has asked me to spend less. In fact, it seems in every Washington meeting while there occasionally is a recognition of the doom America faces if the current spending continues, each meeting usually closes with an expected refrain "... yes we need to spend less but not our program."

By contrast, during my first visit home, just about everyone in the First District asked me to make sure the Federal Government spends less. In Northern Michigan there seems to be a strong consensus that Federal budget red ink can no longer continue at record pace.

Here are my guiding "spend less" principles in this 112th Congress:

Shared Responsibility: Before there is any comprehensive entitlement reform effort, every Federal department should be prepared to live with less money in 2012 than it received in 2011.

Sunlight and Transparency: All spending decisions should be made in a fully transparent legislative process. No backdoor earmarks, no special interest amendments. If a program has merit its supporters should defend the program in public floor debate.

Tighten the Revenue Spigot: Simply sending more money to Washington is not going to solve the problem of unchecked spending; every year the U.S. Treasury receives more money; every year the Federal Government spends more than it takes in. Consequently, increasing taxes is not the answer.

If not now, when? I have publicly promised to limit my career in Congress to just three terms. America's future is more important than any one of us in Congress, certainly more important than any political job. I'd rather do what I think is right than simply keep this position. I trust the voters.

In my view, the debt is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. It is an American issue.

The failure of previous Congresses to act means America now faces a \$14 trillion debt. For every dollar Congress allocates the U.S. Treasury has to borrow up to \$.40 to pay for it. That means indebting ourselves to countries like China and mortgaging our children's future.

Let me be clear, this will not be easy. To stem the tide, many tough decisions will need to be made. Northern Michigan—like the entire country—has a backlog of worthy projects and its people have benefited from admirable public programs. The reductions in H.R. 1 affect

every community in the nation. These are hard decisions for Congress to make, and not everyone will be happy with everything that has been proposed. This is understandable, but I believe these reductions are necessary to show that Congress is serious about returning our country to a sustainable financial path.

The Continuing Resolution to be considered on the House Floor this week is just the first step. Fortunately, the President's budget proposal is merely a suggestion that Congress can improve upon. In my view, Congress needs to offer a more fiscally sound budget for FY 2012.

Additionally, it is my view that Congress will need to consider reforming entitlements programs. Social Security and Medicare are important programs that millions of Americans depend on. Without reform, both of these programs face bankruptcy. In my opinion, Congress needs to consider solutions to avoid this crisis that ensures benefits under Social Security and Medicare are not reduced for those Americans currently receiving benefits.

And I think most of my colleagues agree this is not a time to play politics. The inflamed rhetoric and scare attacks on cutting grand-ma's benefits have no place here. This week's vote will not take away benefits for anyone receiving benefits. Instead, Congress will have completed the first step and as the Constitution dictates, the Senate and the President will have their say.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILLY" LYON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a longstanding business leader in South Alabama, Mr. William "Billy" Lyon, who recently passed away at the age of 80.

A native of Mobile, Mr. Lyon graduated from Murphy High School in 1944 and attended the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina before joining the Navy in 1945, where he served on the USS *Chicago*. Following the end of the war, he attended Auburn University and the University of North Carolina.

A natural entrepreneur, Mr. Billy became a homebuilder with a lifelong passion for commercial and residential real estate development in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Georgia.

He developed scores of local residential subdivisions, including Brookwood, Blacksher Downs, Tuthill Lane Estates and Carriage Hills, and sold lots to nearly every builder in Mobile. He also partnered and developed numerous commercial shopping centers, including Mobile's Bel Air Mall, which opened in 1966.

He was one of the founding board members of Commercial Guaranty Bank in Mobile, which later became SouthTrust Bank, and also served on the Boards of Bel Air Corporation, Mobile Gas Company, First Southern Federal, Altus Bank, the Drug Education Council, and the Alabama School of Math and Science.

Mr. Billy was the longest active member of the Home Builders Association of Mobile and received the E. L. Jones award in 2002. He witnessed and played a vital role in Mobile for

many years, helping countless individuals, bankers, builders, realtors, friends and associates along the way.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I extend my condolences to his wife, Patricia; their two sons, BJ and Jimmy; their four daughters, Tricia, Nancy, Victoria and Ashley; nineteen grandchildren and their entire family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL COLLINS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Dr. Michael Collins. For more than 25 years, he has exhibited a drive and work ethic on and off the ice that serves as inspiration to his colleagues and friends.

Dr. Collins, a Chicago native, attended the University of Notre Dame. In South Bend he played varsity hockey and shoveled furnaces to pay the bills, but still graduated in three and a half years. Upon graduation, Michael spent several years driving a cab, and working construction before entering medicine. After returning to college for another two years to take pre-med courses, he attended the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine followed by five years at the Mayo Clinic. He is now a full-time, board-certified orthopedic surgeon.

In addition to his medical practice, he has written professionally for more than 30 years. His first book, *Hot Lights, Cold Steel*, continues to be a best-seller in the medical memoir field. Since its publication, Michael has lectured extensively on topics relating to medicine and writing.

Dr. Collins' hard work and accomplishments have earned him national attention, and in 2010 he received the American Hockey Coaches Association Lou Lamoriello Award. The Lamoriello Award recognizes a former college hockey player or coach who goes on to a distinguished career in or out of hockey.

Michael and his wife, Patti, have raised 12 children and today he still plays hockey twice a week. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Michael Collins and his life of achievement. His career has inspired many and continues to impress.

RECOGNIZING TIFFANY MCKINNIE AS THE 2011 WASHINGTON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tiffany McKinnie as the 2011 Washington County, Florida Educational Support Person of the Year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and her dedication to the students of Northwest Florida.

Mrs. McKinnie is an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) paraprofessional at Roulhac Middle School. ESE paraprofessionals serve an integral role in the development of ESE